

SCHEDULE

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, the Senate will be in a period of morning business until 6:45 p.m., with Senators speaking for up to 10 minutes each. A vote on a continuing resolution that funds the Government for another day will occur at approximately 6:45 p.m. if the papers have been received from the House. We will try, once again, to see if we can get a vote before that time. The House, I believe, goes in at 6, so we probably will not have the papers before 6:45. We will see if we can go ahead and arrange for a vote to occur before that time but hopefully no later than 6:45. Senators will be updated throughout the afternoon's session.

By previous order, the Senate will convene on Monday at 5 p.m. to consider another continuing resolution. That vote will occur at 7 p.m. and will be the first vote of the day. I might say that there have been meetings with the appropriate Members of Congress and the administration on Saturday. There have been ideas exchanged—are being exchanged even now—that are being developed. I think we are very close, even though it is never over until we get an agreement on the final four or five issues that are still in play.

I think it would be wise for the Senate, the House—the Congress—and the administration to complete their work as soon as possible so that we can leave to be with our constituents and attend to our duties back in our respective States. But it is more important that we look after the people's business first. We will continue, as we have been now, until an agreement can be worked out. We are prepared to exchange some suggestions today, and hopefully we will get some additional information later on this afternoon.

It is still my hope that perhaps by Tuesday we could have the final two or three votes that would be required. That would mean the Labor-HHS appropriations bill, in whatever final form it might be, would have to be filed not later than Monday night. So we would need to have time, of course, for that to be filed and printed and for Senators to have a chance to review it. I presume that would then mean that the vote, if it came on Tuesday, would be late on Tuesday. But I will confer with Senator REID—we were just talking about it—and with Senator DASCHLE to make sure we give Senators the maximum amount of notification when those substantive recorded votes might occur.

Again, I do not want to give the impression it is just about to be done, but that would be our fervent hope. We will give as much advance notice as possible for a final vote on the tax relief package, and also the Labor-HHS appropriations bill, and bankruptcy. I expect to file cloture on the bankruptcy bill today or tomorrow, depending on what might be happening with the schedule.

With that, Mr. President, I see Senator REID is here. Would the Senator like me to yield to him?

Mr. REID. For a brief statement.

Mr. LOTT. I am glad to yield.

Mr. REID. I hope the optimism I hear in the leader's voice is well founded. I hope so. I think we have all worked hard and should wrap this up. I say to the leader, however, I hope today we follow daylight savings time, even though that is not what we have shown in the Senate. As you can see, it is really 5 after 4, not 5 after 5, as the Senate clock shows us. So we will have to make sure we go by the real time and not by what is shown in the Senate Chamber.

Mr. LOTT. Absolutely.

Mr. REID. Is that reasonable?

Mr. LOTT. That certainly is reasonable.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI FOOTBALL TEAM

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I extend my hearty congratulations to the University of Mississippi football team. Their homecoming was yesterday. My daughter and wife and son-in-law, along with a large number of friends, were there; I, however, was not there; I was here. But our very worthy opponent was the Running Rebels of the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. It was a hard-fought victory in overtime. The University of Mississippi prevailed 43-40. So I know all present would be interested in having that information. I extend my congratulations to Senator REID on his outstanding team and his outstanding quarterback who almost gave me a very miserable Saturday night but, thank goodness, good fortune did prevail.

Mr. REID. Mr. Leader, of course we complained about the officiating.

Mr. LOTT. It sounds like something you would hear in Washington.

Mr. REID. It was a great game. Even though the University of Mississippi—"Ole Miss"—was favored by 10 points, it took overtime for them to win by 3 points. So it was a good game and a worthy opponent, and the officiating was very good.

Mr. LOTT. I yield the floor, Mr. President.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will now be a period for the transaction of morning business, for not to extend beyond the hour of 6:45 p.m., equally divided between the two sides, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The Senator from Idaho.

OUR ENERGY CRISIS

Mr. CRAIG. Mr. President, I thought this time was an opportunity of which

I could take advantage to talk about something we all experienced this morning when we awakened here on the east coast. That was the chill of fall in the air.

I think most of us had failed to recognize that we were late into October because the weather has been so mild and so generally warm. But we are really at the threshold of winter, and as winter comes, so does cold weather. And as cold weather comes, the average American reaches to the thermostat on the wall of his or her home and begins to turn it up.

This fall, as that experience occurs, something else is going to happen in America that will be very dramatic, and that will be the turning up of the heating bill because, whether it is electricity or oil for space heating, the cost of those commodities in the average American's household budget has increased dramatically.

In fact, in the Northeast, where home heating oil for space heat is a major commodity, those costs will have better than doubled since last year and could go even higher this year as the amount of supplies for those needs continues to not increase at the rate of demand.

Why has this happened? Why are we at the threshold of an energy crisis in this country that we have not experienced in a long, long while?

In nearly every part of the energy consumer basket—be it electricity, or home heating oil, or automobile gasoline, or diesel for our truck transportation, or fuel for the great turbines of the jet engines that fly Americans across America—there is no surplus today.

That is a historic fact. This country was built on the abundance of energy. Our successes in our economy have always been the result of having the necessary energy to accomplish what we wanted. It was always one of the least-cost items in that accumulation of costs that made up the price to the consumer of a product on the market shelf. That is no longer the case.

For the next few moments, I would like to once again address, as have I and other Senators for the last year and a half, the energy crisis we are now into and why we are there.

Largely, it gained our attention about a year ago when we became aware that the members of the OPEC countries were going to move the price of oil from about \$10 a barrel to \$28-\$30 a barrel. It had been selling for around \$10 in the world spot market, and it was beginning to increase because they were beginning to decrease their production.

Admittedly, no one was making money at \$10 a barrel. Whether it is oil of the Middle East or oil in Texas or Oklahoma or on the overthrust belt of the west in Colorado and Wyoming, oil is not profitable at \$10 a barrel simply because of the cost of production and compliance, especially in this country, with environmental rules and regulations. Somewhere at \$17 to \$20 a barrel